

# Case Study

## Envision School Team



**School:** Woodhouse College  
**Region:** London  
**Age range:** 16 - 17 years old  
**Issue:** Community



### What issue did they tackle and why?

The Cre8 team at Woodhouse College's mission is to make London a brighter, happier place through random acts of creative kindness. They were disappointed by the lack of connection between Londoners and wanted to make them smile more.

### What did they decide to do?

Inspired by Improv Everywhere they set up a 'high fives' event - first in their college, then through London. They spent a Saturday in December taking their high five chain across central London and very cold morning on Millennium Bridge.

They also wanted to brighten up their local area and took their designs along to local councils asking if they could paint benches in parks. Islington loved their designs and after a few meetings they were given their first benches to paint. Awaiting a grant from the Big Lottery Fund they held a cake sale in school and washed teacher's cars to cover the first 2 benches, and in the mean time did a conga line through college for some more random fun.

As the first benches were being painted the news came in that they had received a grant for £1406 from The Big Lottery Fund to continue their bench painting project to brighten up London and the next 3 benches will be painted in July after their exams.



### What is the Envision Schools Programme?

Envision works with teams of young people based in schools and colleges. Starting with the question, "What do you want to change?" teams are supported to investigate issues relevant to their lives as local and global citizens. Led by their own ideas and supported by staff and trained volunteers, teams plan and implement a project to tackle whatever issue they are passionate about - learning to be young leaders and gaining vital employability skills along the way.

For further information please contact Emma Bird  
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## Achievements

### Challenged negative stereotypes of young people

Their bench painting and contact with TFL and Islington Council have challenged the negative stereotypes of young people and shown a positive example of young people having fun and benefiting others.

### Become a positive role model in their school and community

Their high fives and conga line have left a lasting memory in their school, and they have been an inspiration to their peers.

### Outputs of the project:

They will have painted 5 benches in a local park in Islington - 2 down and 3 to go!

Over 1200 high fives given out across London.

Successfully securing a grant from the National Lottery for over £1400.

## Skills and Knowledge Gained

### Communication Skills

The team learned to represent themselves, their ideas and their opinions to different types of people including teachers, local businesses and representatives from the local council

### Team work

The team quickly learned the importance of team work and individual responsibilities amidst group ownership of their project and ideas. They were brilliant at encouraging each other, and had an amazing pioneer and natural project manager to drive the project along.

### Fundraising

The team have learned how to effectively fundraise through their events and also through applying for grants.

## Testimonials

“CRE8 is the team that put fun right at the heart of volunteering. Everything they did was with zest, energy and laughter. They are imaginative and ambitious, coming up with a succession of ideas to liven up the college and the city. The day they led a conga through the library is still remembered fondly, as are their high-five mornings.

They are a fantastic team, each contributing to its slick efficiency. They raised huge amounts of money through cake stalls, car washes and successful bids to the lottery. But they always relished working together; every activity was completed with creativity and enjoyment.

Their actions, their attitude, their commitment rippled out and touched everyone in the College.”

John Rubinstein, Head of Sixth Form at Woodhouse College

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